



The Warrior Voice



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Warrior 6 Sound-off



COL Bill Burleson

Greetings to the Soldiers, families, and friends of 1st Brigade Combat Team. The Brigade has established itself throughout most of Afghanistan. Our partnering and training efforts with Afghan Police, Border Police and Army have already began to make a noticeable difference in the capability and competence of the

host nation security forces. In many cases living conditions for our Soldiers remain austere, however, improvements continue every day. I am continually amazed at the ingenuity of our Soldiers—just this last week I spent some time with one of our platoons during a pause in operations with the Afghan Army at a temporary remote location—they had fashioned a make shift shower and were using solar power to heat the water while having a spades tournament underneath their sunshade made out of ponchos—their morale couldn't have been better. I am continually amazed at the care that our team have for each other, as well as the difference that engaged leadership makes every day.

I encourage all to participate in their respective Family Readiness Groups and recommend that you use our brigade Facebook page, and Virtual FRG website to gain access to information on our Soldiers as well as self help resources. The Fort Drum newspaper, The Mountaineer, publishes stories about the Soldiers and our mission on a weekly basis. This can be found on-line under the Fort Drum web-site and it is also distributed across Fort Drum each Thursday. Additionally the Regional Command North Public Affairs Advisory Team Facebook site provides stories that are more focused on the Afghan National Security Forces within our area.

I am extremely proud of the professionalism and respect

for others that the Soldiers in 1st Brigade have demonstrated through our first several months in Afghanistan. Many have taught themselves working Dari or Pashtu language skills and readily enjoy a plate of palau (rice) and kebabs with their Afghan partners on a regular basis.

I would like to thank all of our volunteers for all that they do for the Soldiers and families of 1st Brigade Combat Team. Additionally, I would ask that you keep in your thoughts and prayers all our wounded warriors as they recover as well as the families of those young men who have made the ultimate sacrifice while in the service of their Nation.

Climb to Glory!

CSM's Soldier's Corner



CSM Dennis Defreese

By the time this is posted it will be close to Father's Day. So for all of the Soldiers in this Brigade who are fathers and to all

of the fathers out there who have Soldiers in the Warrior Family... Happy Father's Day!!! I hope you have a great day (even the ones here in Afghanistan). As I write this we are about half way through our first month of R&R leave, I know you are all looking forward to being with your loved ones for a couple of weeks of rest, and the Soldiers and the Families at home have earned it.

Summer is officially here in Afghanistan and the temperatures are above 100 degrees every day, and despite the heat our Soldiers

are busier than ever partnering with the Afghan National Security Forces and helping to bring security to the population. The Soldiers of the Warrior Brigade continue to demonstrate the values that they learned from their parents and I can assure you that they are living up to them. I am proud of them every day as I am sure every one of you are.

In closing, I would like to say that the reason the Soldiers of the Warrior Brigade are among the best in the Army and every day make a difference here in

Afghanistan is because of all of you—our Families and our friends. You take on a tremendous burden for all of us while we are deployed and I know that sometimes it can be tougher than the one we carry. Please stay in touch with your Soldier, and of course all of the Soldiers that read this had better stay in touch with your loved ones back home. Keep all of the Families with wounded Soldiers in your prayers and remember our fallen Warriors who have given their last measure for our great country.

The Warrior Voice

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Females Train to be ANA Officers



Brig. Gen. Anne F. MacDonald from NATO Training Mission- Afghanistan speaks to the first group of females to enter Afghan National Army officer candidate school May 2 in Kabul.

**Story and photo by
Spc. Blair Neelands**

Kabul – Afghan National Army soldiers stand at attention, M16 rifle in hand, fresh combat boots on, the camo of the uniforms blending together, and their hair tucked neatly beneath a burka.

Day one of the first group of females to attend the ANA's officer candidate school officially started May 3 with 25 students.

The prior day, while in processing, Brig. Gen. Anne F. MacDonald from North Atlantic Treaty Organization Training Mission – Afghanistan, paid a visit to see the facility and most importantly to speak to these future leaders.

"This is an incredible occasion," she said to the students, ANA instructors and American mentors. "History books will be written about this class."

Thirty years ago, MacDonald was in a similar position as a part of the first group of female graduates from the United States Military Academy at West Point.

"Be strong, serve your country, serve your family and serve well," she said.

Now, with three decades of experience under her belt, MacDonald watched as the ANA took the first steps toward equality amongst the ranks.

The success of these future officers is directly linked to the mentorship of the instructors, she said.

Teaching the candidates is a fusion between nine ANA female soldiers and four U.S. Army female Soldiers.

"The support from the leadership will make this work," she said. "This combination of coalition and Afghan forces to train these women is great."

During the five month course the women will be taught the skills to command, lead and teach their future soldiers the way of the ANA. The number one priority is teaching the females to have self-confidence and to be proud of their service to Afghanistan.

"These women are very strong and have a lot of potential," MacDonald said. "With your role modeling you can make a difference."

ArmyFRG is your direct connection to Command information for your unit. Register today for your unit's Virtual FRG site and get connected to all of the pertinent information and resources you need to stay informed and connected.

The Army Family Readiness Group (Army FRG) website provides a secure environment in which information, resources, and support are available to Soldiers and their Family Members 24 hours a day, regardless of their geographic location. A unit's virtual FRG site or vFRG promotes a community feeling within Army units by providing a place that is customized to the unit and contains content that is controlled by the unit. Army FRG provides all of the functionality of a traditional FRG in an ad-hoc and on-line setting to meet the needs of geographically dispersed units and Families across all components of the Army.



If the Family Member has not registered for the Army FRG site already, go to www.armyfrg.org. and click on **"Find an FRG"** in the left navigation bar.

Select the CONUS or OCONUS location of the FRG's home. Then chose the FRG from the list of units listed for that location. You can narrow the search if the list is long.

In the dropdown of the next page, set the *"I am subscribing as a"* drop down to **"Family Member"**, Then enter the Family Member's first and last names and then the Soldier of Interest's first and last names and the last 4 digits of the Soldier's SSN. Note, the Family

Member's name must appear exactly as it was entered in the invitation list for automatic approval. Fill in the account information for the Army FRG web site.



A Soldier from Alpha Company, 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion provides security near the Heyratan border crossing in Northern Afghanistan.



D Company holds Change of Command Ceremony

Story and photo by
SSgt. Megan P. Lyon

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KUNDUZ, Afghanistan – More than 100 Soldiers witnessed as Capt. Eric Carrens assumes command of Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division from Capt. David Bell during a change-of-command ceremony, May 29.

Among the ceremony's audience were distinguished guests Haji Habibullah, Aliabad District governor, Maj. Aman, Aliabad Police Chief, Said Abdul Wahed Omar Khail, Chahar Darreh District governor and Ghulam Mahudin, Chahar Darreh Police Chief.

"Today we witness the transfer of command authority between two excellent officers," said Lt. Col. Russell Lewis, commander of 1-87. "Command of Soldiers in combat is a privilege and a responsibility that is not given lightly. It is a duty to be taken with the utmost sincerity, diligence and dedication and I know these two officers exemplify all of these characteristics.

The change of command ceremony is a simple, traditional event that runs deep in symbolism and the military's heritage. The

guidon, which historically has marked the unit's location on the battlefield, is passed from the outgoing commander to the new commander signifying the official transfer of responsibility.

After the guidon was passed, Capt. Bell thanked his leadership and his wife, before thanking the Soldiers, noncommissioned officers and officers standing before him in formation for all their hard work and for making D Company the best company in the battalion.

"I've enjoyed commanding D Company more than I could have imagined," said Capt. Bell. "It has been a true honor and a privilege to be your commander."

As the captain spoke to his Soldiers for the last time he quoted the American Revolutionary writer Thomas Paine.

"These are the times that try men's souls," quoted Capt. Bell. "The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands now, deserves the thanks of man and woman.

Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap we esteem too lightly; it is dearness only that gives everything its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as freedom should not be highly rated."

"Terrorism is today's tyranny and everyone gathered here today deserves the thanks of their countryman," he continued. "Freedom is worth the price, we will win this fight." As D Company bid farewell to their commander for the last time, Capt. Bell parted with these words.

"Your service here matters and I thank you for it", he said.



Capt. David Bell, commander of D Co., 1-87 Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, takes the guidon from 1st Sgt. Joseph Mejia during the change-of-command ceremony, May 29.

3-6 FA Medical Mission in Ghalbala

Story and photo by
By 1LT David Gutierrez

MAIMANAH, Afghanistan – Afghan National Police along with Soldiers from Bravo Battery, 3rd Battalion, 6th Field Artillery from the 10th Mountain Division's 1st Brigade Combat Team joined forces June 1, to bring much needed medical aid and supplies to a local village that has been plagued by the insurgency.

For months, insurgents have been taxing shepherds and farmers of Ghalbala and attacking any International Security Assistance Forces that approach the area.

According to Staff Sgt. Chad Charles, a squad leader with Bravo's 2nd platoon, the villagers are typically too scared to leave

their homes. During this medical mission however, the ISAF partners were intent on not only providing aid but maximum protection too.

"Security around the perimeter was well established and the overwhelming fire power was enough to deter any attack, keeping the locals safe," Charles said.

Most ailments the people of Ghalbala had were simple and could be helped with a quick trip to a doctor's office or pharmacy, however living in a poor, remote village far from the major population centers makes it difficult to receive medical care.

"The nearest hospital is 50 miles away," said Pfc. Margie Huelskamp, a medical specialist

with Golf Company, 3-6 FA. "But we can go right to where the people live."

With medical supplies identified by, and coordinated through the Afghan Government, the locals were treated for everything from simple headaches to infant dehydration due to diarrhea.

After months of hard training and preparation at Ft. Drum, N.Y. before their deployment, Soldiers of the battalion were able to see firsthand the faces of the people they are here to assist.

"The Soldiers felt good about what they did today," said Sgt. 1st Class Heath Heriger, of Bravo Battery. "And it inspired them to be more committed to helping the Afghan People."

Before the ISAF troops left, they conveyed a message to a Ghalbala village elder saying Soldiers of Bravo Battery are here to work hand-in-hand with the Afghan Government, and to partner with the Afghan National Police to secure the region, and ensure similar aid is provided to the villages of Almar District.

Soldiers of Bravo Battery are eager to return to Ghalbala and help the good people who live there. The villagers were pleased and said that American Soldiers are welcome any time in their village.



Pfc. Margie Huelskamp, a medical specialist with Golf Company, 3-6 FA, and Pfc. Ryan Spence, a medic with Bravo Battery, 3-6 FA, examine a local man suffering from back pain.



3-6 FA Uncase Colors, Conducts Patch Ceremony

Story by
1st Lt. David Gutierrez

FOB GRIFFIN, Afghanistan – In many ways the day was typical in Afghanistan – temperatures near 95 degrees, clear skies, patrols of up-armored vehicles made their way across the Provincial Capital city of Maimanah and further west into the far districts of Faryab Province, commonly referred to by many Soldiers as “the edge of the empire”.

However, as the patrols returned from their day’s missions they prepared for an evening ceremony steeped in tradition and warrior pride. The battalion prepared for the official uncasing of the unit’s colors and the awarding of the 10th Mountain Division combat patch.

Against the backdrop of a setting sun, the regimental mascot “the Cat”, a gift to the 6th Field Artillery Regiment during its service in the Philippines in 1903, stood watch over the formation. With the foothills of the Hindu Kush Mountains rising on the horizon to the south, and nearby shepherds and local children watching with a bird’s eye view from the surrounding high ground, Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffery East brought the battalion to attention to begin the ceremony.

“In just a few short weeks in Afghanistan I have met political leaders, members of the Afghanistan National Security Forces and many local Afghans in the Faryab Province,” said Lt. Col. Kyle J. Marsh, commander of Task Force Centaur. “I have learned that

your arrival and the uncasing of our historic colors are providing a sense of hope and encouragement to the people of Faryab who believe that brighter days are coming. You have been asked to partner with the Afghan National Police, but make no mistake that we are prepared to fight any who wish this country ill will and who strive to derail our mission. With the donning of the 10th Mountain combat patch, you are no longer just a Soldier, you are a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States of America. The patch you now wear on your right sleeve symbolizes your membership into the history of the 10th Mountain Division and will forever provide you proud memories of your selfless service to your country.”

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1-87 Partner with Afghan QRF

Story courtesy of
1-87 Infantry

FOB KONDUZ, Afghanistan—Soldiers of the Scout Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, and the Afghan National Police Quick Response Force are greatly increasing their ability to work together in the past month.

Through persistent training and operations the scout platoon and the ANP QRF are materializing into an integrated force capable of reacting to any situation quickly.

The Scout Platoon hosted numerous training events to include patrolling, map reading, BRM and medical training.

Staff Sgt. Voisey, Staff Sgt. Hall, Staff Sgt. Nunez, and Sgt. Hall have facilitated several patrolling rehearsals.

The Scout Platoon and ANP QRF conducted integrated rehearsals focusing on BD 2, 1A, BD6 and break contact drills.

Despite obvious language barriers, the ANP QRF understood and integrated easily with the scout platoon Soldiers during the rehearsals.

1st Lt. Wearin and Sgt. 1st Class Johnson gave planning and map reading classes to the ANP leadership and instruction to the ANP commander, the ANP executive officer, the operations officer, and a company commander.

Most of the leadership was familiar with map reading and used planning techniques similar to those of U.S. Forces. Some of the leadership participated in training on battle tracking using maps and GPS devices.

May 29, the scout platoon Soldiers conducted familiarization fire and began zeroing the ANP QRF soldiers’ weapons.

The Scout Platoon plans to continue integrated ranges with the ANP QRF throughout the summer. The success of each training event is reflective of the competence of the ANP QRF as a whole and it is clear

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ANP Conduct Night Security with U.S. Soldiers

Story courtesy of
1-87 Infantry

Soldiers of 1st Platoon, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, and their Afghan National Police partners from Precinct 1 conducted a dismounted, nighttime, combined action patrol to an observation post that overlooked several river crossing points believed to be utilized by the Taliban to move between Konduz City and Chahar Darreh, May 19 to 20.

This was the second dismounted night patrol the ANP of Precinct 1 had ever conducted.

Prior to this operation, in addition to other combined actions patrols, the 1st platoon conducted small unit tactics training with the police to ensure success of the upcoming night operation.

The ANP do not have night vision capabilities, so 1st Platoon brought extra infrared night vision hand-held equipment, PAS-13s.

The partnered ANP unit moved to an OP to over watch the river crossings until 2:00 a.m. While the ANP was over watching the river crossings, the mortar platoon, 1-87 Inf., located on Forward Operating Base Konduz, fired illumination rounds in support of 1st platoon and their combined action patrol.

The mortar fire mission denied the Taliban freedom of maneuver by increasing observation of the river crossing points. Additionally, the fire mission demonstrated the indirect fire assets available from 1-87 Inf. and increased the confidence of the ANP to conduct night operations.

Around 2:00 a.m. the combined patrol moved back to the ANP Precinct and conducted recovery operations. At the precinct, the Soldiers and police ensured 100% accountability of all equipment, cleaned their equipment, and conducted an after action review.

An Afghan National Police precinct Police Chief meets with 1st Platoon's leader from Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment to discuss and plan a combined operation.





Soldiers Meet with Local Radio, Television Station

Story courtesy of
1-87 Infantry

Since arriving in Kunduz, Soldiers of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, have been meeting with many local leaders, elders and personalities.

Capt. John Principe, the commander, C Company, 1-87, has spent many days racing through the streets of Kunduz, from one meeting to another.

While on patrol, C Company, 1-87, noticed a building marked Kunduz Radio and Television. The patrol stopped and Principe with 2nd Lt. Austin Roberts, the fire support officer for C Company, 1-87, 1st Lt. Dustin McClure, the platoon leader for 2nd Platoon, C Company, and Sgt. Michael Chesna, the COIST sergeant of C Company, 1-87, ventured into the building.

Upon entering they were greeted by Mr. Sayd Ismail Ansari, the director of

Kunduz National Radio Television, in the building's courtyard. Ansari was very delighted to see American Soldiers and quickly invited them in for chai and snacks.

Ansari, a gregarious man, began regaling his audience with the virtues of being a journalist and his displeasure with the Taliban.

"It would be great to film a U.S. Patrol," Ansari said.

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Capt. John Principe, commander of Charlie Company, 1-87 Infantry meets with Sayd Ansari, the director of Kunduz Radi- Television.

Monitoring the Net on Spann

Story by

CW 2 Michael Bouchard

NetOps is the Command and Control for the Joint Network Node (JNN), Command Post Node (CPN), and SIPR/NIPR Access Point (SNAP) services. These services include applications such as exchange email, Voice over IP (VoIP), virtual conferences, and real time battle field management applications which users need to complete their missions. The NetOps crew monitors and troubleshoots the network for faults and performance issues for current links and is the central point for planning and engineering network expansion. The goal is to have all services and assemblages working at their peak performance at all times and identify trends in network performance,

ultimately maximizing customer satisfaction.

1-10 NetOps consists of one Warrant Officer, four NCOs, and three Soldiers. SSG Hector Sosa, SSG Louis Fember, SSG Joseph Indelicato, SGT Xuan Duong and SPC Corey Speed have

previous deployment experience with 1st Brigade, 10th Mountain Division. PFC Josue Molina and PFC Shawn Jenkins are the newest additions and continue to learn and grow daily, and under the influence of CW2 Michael Bouchard they all bring something different to the team.

From left to right - Staff Sgt. Sosa, Pfc. Jenkins, Spc. Speed, Pfc. Molina, Sgt. Duong, CW 2 Michael Bouchard



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For information & photos please contact us at warrior_pao@yahoo.com



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Working with Police in Mazar-e-Sharif

Story and photo by
Spc. Cynthia Teears Van Cleve

Soldiers of Red Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company and 3rd platoon, Alpha Company., attached to HHC, 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, have been working with and supporting Afghan National Police in the Mazar-e-Sharif and Dehdadi area for the past few months.

“We’re tied in with the local government to get joint operations with the local elders and the ANP,” said Capt. Timothy Williams, the commander, HHC, 1st BSTB.

The ANP weren’t really willing to work with the U.S. Soldiers when the unit first arrived, said Williams. It took a couple of weeks and each unit building up the relationship.

“The district of Mazar-e-Sharif is 100 years old, but we are only about 30 years old as a district and in progress of improving,” Ali Shah said.

The U.S. Army donated some equipment to the Dehdadi District Attorney’s office recently

to help with their ability to enforce their laws.

“I’m very happy that my people have you,” said Ali Shah, Dehdadi District Governor, sub-governor for Balkh Province. “We’re thankful for all of you with the Germans and the other forces helping us.”

It didn’t take much time for the equipment donated to be put to use.

“They just recently had a murder, a double murder actually,” Williams said.

“Because we provided the DA with the computers and cameras they were able to photograph and cut down the amount of time it took for them to build the evidence.”

The Red Platoon, HHC, and the 3rd platoon, A Co., also known as the quick response force platoon, has worked directly with the ANP for at least seven combined missions in the past few months and the working relationship has improved considerably.

“Before when we stopped by they didn’t want to go with us,” Williams said. “Now that we’ve built a relationship they jump right in their vehicles and go when we stop by. They are out patrolling the streets a lot more also.”

The Soldiers and ANP patrol together when they are on combined missions and they interact with the district’s citizens to help build trust.

“We interact with the people alongside the ANP and it promotes good relations with the locals,” Williams said.

The QRF platoon and Red Platoon have a good working relationship with the local ANP and are ready to go with the ANP and support them anytime anything happens in the local area.



Staff Sgt. Waylon Cropper from HHC 1st BSTB watches as two young Afghan boys help each up a hill just to shake his hand in the Dehdadi District.

Marriage is a Four Letter Word

Story by
Chaplain Brian T. Hargis

It's no hidden secret. It's no mystery. It's no deep revelation or epiphany. Marriage is a four letter word.

W-O-R-K.

Say it.
Say it again.

MARRIAGE = WORK

Say it enough times that you get use to it.

If you want a healthy, happy, life-lasting marriage, it will take some work. Work within a marriage is not negative nor is it a "bad thing," but quite the contrary.

As an example, some people love their job and to them, work is second nature. On the other hand, some people hate their job and they dread getting up in the morning and going to it. In the same sense the perception of work within a marriage is dependent upon the love between the spouses. When you love, more importantly – when you are in love, the work involved in the marriage is second nature. It's a term that I call, "keeping the love alive."

"Work" is found 420 times in the Scriptures, thus making it pretty important. The first time mentioned in the Holy Bible speaks of the work of God;

*"And on the seventh day God ended his **work** which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his **work** which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his **work** which God created and made." Genesis 2:2-3*

Such a complex and inconceivable creation didn't evolve by itself through the process of billions of years. It was brought about by the **work** of an intelligent

designer - the Creator. In the same sense, marriage will not magically evolve into something beautiful and permanent without some care and attention poured into it. If left to itself, marriage will break down, dissolve and fade away.

Your Marital House



Consider your marriage like purchasing a brand new house. Without consistent care and maintenance throughout the years, your house will eventually fall apart. You need a little paint here and a little plumbing there; a few screws here and a couple nails there. If you fail to maintain your house, you'll only have problems.

Go ahead and avoid the upkeep. Cut corners on the work and see what happens. Stop mowing the grass. Ignore that leaky faucet squeaky garage door. Forget about the crack in the ceiling and the loose handrail. Stop sealing your driveway, re-shingling your roof and changing your air filters. Let it all go and just wait. *Continued on page 14*



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It won't take long before you realize that the damage done and the price of repairs will only cost you more down the road than you ever expected. In just a few short years, the value of a once-beautiful-home will be drastically reduced by thousands of dollars. You'll stand there wondering, "How did it ever come to this?" "Where did we go wrong?"

Silly isn't it? I mean, who wouldn't put some work into their home to maintain it, right? Wrong! We can all walk down our neighborhood block and find that one home with the gutter falling off and the grass two feet high.

Maintaining your own home is not always glamorous or exciting... but it is always necessary. It's a long-term investment and it takes work.

Marital Leasing?

The problem many couples face is that they look at their marriage like rental property. There's no long-term investment because there's no long-term commitment. It's like a one year lease agreement that has to be reconsidered every 12 months. If the location is wrong, if the cost is too high, if the size is too big or small, if the career takes them away, or if they just don't like it...they simply walk away and look for another place to take up residency.

Hence the reason why many couples walk away from an otherwise workable marriage - their internal lease has expired. The agreement they made, in their mind, was negotiable. Although not verbally stated at their matrimonial ceremony, their promise of "for better or for worse... 'till death us do

part" has limitations. So for many, getting out of a marriage agreement is as simple as walking away from a lease.

Next, there's maintenance on the rental property. When the sewage backs up, who fixes it? When the garage door needs replaced, who replaces it? When the front door falls off the hinges, who repairs it? When the walls need painted, who paints them? It's not the renter, it's the property owner. There's no long-term investment by the renters because there's no life-time commitment. Renters have no intention of living in the house forever. They rent for the sake of ease, convenience and flexibility.

For the first seven years of our marriage, my wife and I rented four apartments. We enjoyed our flexibility. It was easy to come and go as we pleased as we bounced between military bases while I was a young enlisted man in the U.S. Army. We had no long-term commitment. In fact, we could've walked away at any time and the only loss would've been our deposit.

In 1999 we purchased our first home, owning three homes altogether, and currently leasing one of them. To pick up and move now is a headache... but we do it. It takes work (and a lot of it). You see, it's more difficult to move around when you have more invested. It's more complicated. There's more to lose and more at stake.

Think about your marriage. Are you a renter or an owner? Are you in it temporarily, or looking to live with your spouse for life? Invest in your marriage and it will stand the test of time. Take this to heart and we'll pick up where we left off next month.

*For more questions or information on marriage and relationship issues, contact me. Chaplain (CPT) Brian T. Hargis

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*No reproduction or publication of this article may be used without the expressed written consent of the author, as this chapter will be published in the book, *MARRIAGE: Keeping the Love Alive*. Paper and digital copies authorized as long as the author is accredited.

3-6 FA

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The regimental colors were uncased for the first time since early February, when they were cased during a brigade deployment ceremony at Fort Drum, N.Y.

The patching ceremony began with Sgt. Gabriel Jerez, the Battalion's Automations NCO, publishing the official order which permits every member of Task Force Centaur to don the famed "powder keg"

of the 10th Mountain Division. The Commanders, First Sergeants and NCOs of each battery congratulated their Soldiers with a tap on the shoulder to attach their well-earned combat patch.

East noted the importance of the ceremony by saying, "Tradition is the one thing that sets our Army apart from any other work force. Today's ceremony continues those traditions by honoring our unit, honoring those who have served before us, and honoring our Soldiers for

their duty to our nation in a time of war."

With an important milestone behind them, the Soldiers of Task Force Centaur now focus on their primary mission of mentorship and partnership with the Afghan National Police. Their efforts over the next year will bring security to a torn province of Afghanistan and assist the government by supporting the development efforts in the region.

QRF

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that they are a well trained and capable force.

The Scout Platoon and ANP QRF conducted several combined action patrols in reaction to INS activity in Kunduz Province and recently the Scout Platoon and ANP QRF conducted a movement to contact in the Aliabad District in response to INS ambushes earlier in the day.

The integrated force uprooted the enemy from their stronghold. The ANP QRF maneuvered and fired along with the Scout Platoon throughout the operation. Their actions were indicative of a well trained, brave and motivated force.

The Scout Platoon recently moved to the ANP QRF facility in downtown Kunduz. Johnson has been persistent in his effort to establish living facilities for the Scout Platoon and so far the platoon has sleeping quarters and a tent for a command post.

The Scout Platoon hopes to install air conditioner units, working showers, restrooms and fuel point in the near future. Living at the facility will increase the Scout Platoon's ability to train and operate with the ANP QRF.

The Scout Platoon will continue to partner with the ANP QRF for the foreseeable future. IOT increase security in Kunduz and Baghlan Provinces.

These combined patrols are certainly helping to increase the security in Kunduz Province. There is a lot of work to be done, but it is clear that the ANP QRF and Scout Platoon will have a major influence in Kunduz Province over the year.



Radio/TV

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Elated at the idea Ansari started rambling off ideas with Roberts in a call for a picture with Principe.

The tour consisted of the news studio, the editing room and then as an afterthought Ansari mentioned that he also had a radio station on the premises.

Ansari beaming with pride asked if the group would like to see the radio station.

"We would love to see it," Principe said.

Ansari guided the tour through the courtyard populated by flowers to a small building in the rear of the compound.

Inside the building there was a laptop computer set up along with several small recording and transmitting devices.

Ansari said that while the station is small and has many drawbacks they are still broadcasting daily. The station broadcasts on 94.4 FM, and is able to reach out 60 kilometers as the crow flies.

Upon returning to Ansari's plush well furnished office and discussion returned to Roberts idea of a weekly television show.

Ansari mentioned that several times the Taliban has left night letters at the station, threatening him and his family.

Ansari said he is not scared and as a journalist, "the pen is my weapon."

Ansari related that while he was in Germany as part of an Afghan Cultural Exchange program for 12 days, his German counterparts suggested that he stay and be granted asylum.

Ansari refused their offer of help, "Afghanistan is my home," he had told them.

Eventually this meeting had to end, but following meetings have already taken place. Ideas have been refined and polished in anticipation of a weekly news program to involve Roberts, Chesna, various local counterparts, citizens and VIP guests.

"We are Kunduz," has been tabbed as the name of the show and the gears are in motion, setting up the beginning of what will be a beautiful partnership.